

# Congressional Record

### Proceedings and Debates of the 112th Congress, Second Session

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

## U.S. House of Representatives

## Statement by Representative Gerald E. Connolly Commending High School Seniors on their Decision to Serve in Uniform

Mr. Connolly: Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize ninety-two graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following high graduates on their enlistment:

United States Marines: Nghia Pham, Eugene Null, Lucas Beverly, Christopher Crowley, John James, Antonio Berrios, Thus Laddaphan, Stephen Barbeau, Jospeh Bumbardner, Kevin Castillo, Benjamin Ellsworth, Cullen Guimond, Armani Williams, Ryan Proctor, Dennon Carannza Kee, Josh Dungo, Neftali Romero, Josue Funes, Gerry Bonilla Rojas, Nathan Jumaili, Jacob Loy, Edson Meijia Jimenez, Christopher Sisson, Tristian Crenshaw, Jacob Peck, Yiqi (Tony) Xiao, Kyoung Jin Yoon, Samuel Ornelas, Sang Ly, David Nguyen, Jonathan Erazo, Diego Olivieri, Joseph Rodriquez, Rustom Pangilinan, Kevin Romero, William McCabe, Colin Tribble, Corey Beswick, William Glass, Yessica Lopez, Dony Haeuptle, Jacob Boyd, Kimberly Jimenez, William Clark

United States Navy: Alborz Shirmohammadi, Joseph Branch, Matthew Shaw, Daniel Vanderplas, Daniel Portilla Romero, Olga Batsula, Alex Reano, Harlan Pickering

United States Army: Paul Aubuchon, Jamal Smith, George Palacio, Justin Johnson, Jonathan LaLonde, Darius Gettridge, Daniel Gettridge, Tyler Melton, Bryan Castellon, Marco Lozada, Tevin Watts, Alec Montesdeoca, Maria Canon Aguilar, Rachael Dougherty, Nicola Gonazales, Diamond Tutt, Tyler Caldwell, David Shine, Seth Brink, Brooke Couliette, Javier Morales, Kenneth Rodrigo, Michael Gomez, Peter Jordan, Zach Ahad, Anthry Milla, Saleh Saeed, Alexander Bertelli, Djuan McGowan, Aaron Jacobs, Lee Maring, Michael Brigola, Christopher Guanilo,

United States Air Force: Michael Abney, Cody Ellis, Diamond Sellers, Naimah Coleman, Anthony Taylor, Jimmy Nguyen, and Melvin Mazariegos

The Northern Virginia Chapter of Our Community Salutes will host a ceremony Wednesday, May 9, 2012 to recognize these young people and their families and to wish them safety and success as they pursue a career in the Armed Forces. I commend and thank this organization for promoting such a worthwhile cause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense of our nation's freedom.